

## REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application and entry of this Amendment are respectfully requested.

Since applicant elected the claim of Group I (claim 1) without traverse in applicant's Response of October 29, 2010, applicant reserves the right to file a separate divisional application for the non-elected claims 2-6.

Applicant filed an Information Disclosure Statement on May 17, 2011 for the patent documents listed in the specification in response to the examiner's advice (at page 2, item 2 of the Office Action) that the listing of references in the specification is not a proper Information Disclosure Statement. Applicant's Information Disclosure Statement also cited four Japanese patent documents that were cited in the corresponding Japanese application.

The examiner's objection to the drawings is believed obviated by the attached Replacement Sheets. The Replacement Sheet renumbers the original drawing Figs. 1-11 as Figs. 1-9. Such renumbering of the drawing figures was previously done in applicant's PCT/International Application (PCT/NO2005/000093). The renumbered drawing figures 1-9 were attached to the International Preliminary Report on Patentability (IPRP) of March 7, 2006. A courtesy copy of the IPRP was filed with this application on September 29, 2006 with Courtesy Copies of other International Application Correspondence.

No new matter has been added by the new figure numbering. It should also be noted that the original drawing Figs. 1a and 2a were redundant. The redundant Fig. 2a has been eliminated in the Replacement Sheets figures.

The following table indicates correspondence of the original Figs. 1-11 with the replacement Figs. 1-9:

Original Figure	Replacement Figure Sheet
1	1a
1 (section along A-A)	1b
1	1c
2 (section along A-A)	1d
3	2a (with new reference numbers)
3 (section along A-A)	2b (with new reference numbers)
4	3a (with new reference numbers)
4 (section along A-A)	3b (with new reference numbers)
4	3c
5	4a
5 (section along A-A)	4b
6	5a (with new reference numbers)
7	5b (with new reference numbers)
8	6 (with new reference numbers)
9	7a (without $\phi$ d dimension)
9	7b (without $\phi$ s dimension)
10	8a (with new reference numbers)
10	8b (with new reference numbers)
11	9 (with new reference numbers)

Since reference number 24 is no longer included in the drawings it is believed that the examiner's objection to the drawings because of the presence of reference number 24 should be withdrawn.

The specification has been amended to include subtitling and a more descriptive title of invention, as suggested by the examiner.

The Brief Description of the Drawings includes figure descriptions from Applicant's amended PCT International Application that was attached to the previously referred to PCT International Preliminary Report on Patentability. No new matter is included in the figure descriptions or the Replacement Sheets or in the use of new reference numbers in the figures on the Replacement Sheets.

The specification was amended to refer to the new reference numbers in the figures and to correspond to the text of the Amended PCT specification that was also attached to the previously referred to PCT International Preliminary Report on Patentability.

It is also submitted that no new matter is presented in any of the amendments to the specification herein.

The examiner's rejection of claim 1 under the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph of 35 USC § 112 is now moot because claim 1 is cancelled.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC § 102 as being anticipated by German Patent Publication DE 31 44 358 to Burkowsky or U.S. Patent 5,335,729 to Turner et al is respectfully traversed. An english translation of Burkowsky is attached to this Amendment.

With regard to the patents cited by the examiner publication DE 31 44 386 to Burkowsky shows a sliding sleeve for pipe connections. The sliding sleeve fits over two pipe ends that confront each other end to end.

Selected portions of the pipe walls at the end portions are pressed outwardly in radial fashion by dies within the pipe walls. The radially outward pressure from the dies forms beads in the pipe walls that are forced into interior circular grooves in the sliding sleeve to create a pipe connection between the two pipe ends.

Burkowsky is thus directed to a flangeless device for connecting two pipes together. Burkowsky's method and claims require that two pipes be connected together by the pipe connecting sleeve.

There is no showing or suggestion in Burkowsky of a radially directed, post-pressing action to press the ends of the pipe radially outward into a recess having a diameter greater than the diameter of the pipe such that the end of the pipe can be flared outwardly into the recess.

Also Burkowsky is not intended to provide a coupling element on one end of a pipe that is separate and apart from any other pipe. As shown in Burkowsky two pipe ends must be arranged end to end, and in such arrangement they are coupled together.

It is apparent that Burkowsky deals with the creation of a continuous pipe-line system rather than the joining of a coupling element with a flange to a single pipe end.

U.S. patent 5,335,729 to Turner shows a flangeless tubular connection for connecting two ends of a pipe together. As in Burkowsky et al the pipe ends are placed end to end, and a tubular housing with spaced annular recesses is placed around both ends. A mechanical forging element located within the two pipes expands radially to deform selected portions of the pipe end into beads that are forced into the annular recesses of the tubular connection.

In both Turner and Burkowsky the mechanical forging element can only be removed from a free end of the connected pipes, or slid internally of the connected pipes to connect another pair of pipe ends together to form a pipe-line system.

Applicant's new independent method claim 7 requires,

*"...forming a coupling element with an annular portion for surrounding a pipe...a flange portion that extends radially from the annular portion...spaced annular grooves in an annular inner surface of the coupling element...an annular recess in the annular inner surface...at a foremost portion of the coupling element with a recess diameter greater than the outer diameter of the pipe...positioning the coupling element...at an end region of the pipe...separate and apart from any other pipe...providing a first...pressing action on the inside...of the pipe...to create beads that project from the outside wall...into the annular grooves...providing a second...pressing action on the inside...of the pipe...to cause a post-pressing ...outward...and...further press the end of the pipe radially outwards...to flare the end of the pipe outwardly into the recess."*

Applicant's claim 7 requires the coupling element to have a flange portion and requires that the coupling element be joined to the end of a single pipe, separate and apart from any other pipe. Applicant's claim 7 thus enables the pipe with the coupling element to be joined to another pipe with a similar coupling element at any selected time.

Also since applicant's method joins a coupling element to a single pipe, separate and apart from other pipes, the force providing means for joining the coupling element to a pipe can be easily removed from the pipe end at which the coupling is secured. The force providing means need

not be passed through a series of joined pipes as in Burkowsky and Turner et al.

It should be noted that a pressing action inside a pipe to deform the outside surface of a pipe to create beads that press into annular grooves can create stresses on the pipe end that result in the pipe end flaring inwardly, and thus interfering with fluid flow within the pipe.

A further advantage of applicant's invention as claimed, distinct from Burkowsky and Turner et al and any of the other patents cited by the examiner, is the requirement of a recess at a foremost portion of the coupling element. The recess has a diameter greater than the outer diameter of the pipe. The recess enables the end of the pipe to be flared radially outward into the recess. Thus the end of the pipe does not flare inwardly and cannot interfere with fluid flow that occurs within the pipe. (paragraphs [0005] and [0008] of the specification and Figs. 1a-1d).

Such provision for an outward flaring of the end of a pipe within a coupling is neither shown nor suggested in Burkowsky and Turner et al., or any of the other patents of record herein.

Accordingly it is submitted that claim 7 is patentably distinguishable over the patents cited by the examiner whether considered individually or in combination or with any of the other prior art of record in this application. Allowance of claim 7 is thus respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and allowance thereof respectfully requested.

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